

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FMC-04

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 SAJ-01 SS-15

NSCE-00 NSC-10 L-03 H-03 PRS-01 PA-03 USIE-00 INRE-00

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FMC - RSHOPE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, OVIP,UR

SUBJECT: SHIPPING TALKS: VISIT OF FMC CHAIRMAN BENTLEY

REF: MOSCOW 9802

1. DEPARTMENT AND FMC APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE DESCRIBED REFTEL AND PREVIOUS, AS WELL AS EMBASSY'S COVERING LUNCHEON COSTS.

2. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE SUGGESTED BY MINISTRY OF MERCHANT FLEET (PARA. 1 REFTEL) POSES PROBLEMS. FIRST, WE DO NOT PLAN TO SIGN "PROTOCOL" AS SUGGESTED BY SOVIETS, AS WE CONSIDER THAT TALKS WILL BE PRIMARILY INFORMATIONAL. SIGNING OF PROTOCOL COULD SUGGEST INSTEAD A MORE FORMAL NEGOTIATING SESSION. SECOND, WE STRONGLY PREFER TO HOLD MOSCOW TALKS IN ONE CONTINUOUS SESSION RATHER THAN TWO

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SESSIONS AS SOVIETS SUGGEST. WITH CANCELLATION OF MRS.

BENTLEY'S TOKYO VISIT SHE MAY NOW WISH TO DEPART DIRECTLY FROM LENINGRAD RATHER THAN RETURNING TO MOSCOW. MOREOVER, RONALD WEBB UNABLE TO REMAIN PAST WEEKEND BUT DESIRES TO ATTEND ENTIRE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS TO BE HELD IN MOSCOW.

3. EMBASSY THEREFORE REQUESTED TO DISCUSS PROGRAM WITH MMF, EXPRESS APPRECIATION THEIR EFFORTS AND SUGGESTIONS, BUT NOTE THAT SPLITTING MOSCOW DISCUSSIONS AS THEY HAVE PROPOSED CREATES PROBLEMS FOR SOME MEMBERS OF US GROUP,

AND INQUIRE WHETHER IT NOT POSSIBLE TO HOLD MOSCOW TALKS IN SINGLE CONTINUOUS SESSION AT BEGINNING OF VISIT. IN THIS CONNECTION US GROUP WOULD APPRECIATE MAKING SOVIET-PROPOSED VISIT TO MONASTERY CITY OF ZAGORSK DURING MOSCOW STAY AND PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR ODESSA/LENINGRAD. WITH LENINGRAD AS LAST POINT OF OFFICIAL VISIT, MEMBERS OF GROUP WOULD THEN HAVE OPTION OF DEPARTING DIRECTLY FROM LENINGRAD, AS ORIGINALLY SUGGESTED BY SOVIETS (REF MOSCOW 9299), OR FROM MOSCOW.

4. IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY LATER MISUNDERSTANDING WE BELIEVE IT BETTER TO MAKE CLEAR NOW THAT WE DO NOT ENVISAGE THAT TALKS WILL CULMINATE IN PROTOCOL OR OTHER SIGNED DOCUMENT. EMBASSY THEREFORE REQUESTED TO TAKE OPPORTUNITY OF DISCUSSION OF PROGRAM TO EXPLAIN ALSO THAT AS THIS WILL BE FIRST EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND INFORMATION BETWEEN FMC AND SOVIET SHIPPING OFFICIALS AND AS WE DO NOT VIEW THE TALKS AS A NEGOTIATION, WE CONSIDER THAT A PROTOCOL OR OTHER SUCH JOINTLY SIGNED DOCUMENT TO BE UNNECESSARY AND INAPPROPRIATE AND COULD EVEN GIVE RISE TO MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT. ROGERS

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